

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1998

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

/USDEL JEC PARIS 1284

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0299

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, WMO, WHO, VN, VS, KU

SUBJECT: KUWAIT POSITIONS ON PRG PARTICIPATION AT SECOND SESSION
OF CONFERENCE ON WAR AND 77TH WMO CONGRESS

REF: A. STATE 008673 B. STATE 010509

C. STATE 011574

SUMMARY: ACCORDING GOK FORMIN OFFICIAL, PRG HAS SOUGHT KUWAITI
SUPPORT BUT LATTER WILL ABSTAIN IN VOTES ON PRG PARTICIPATION
AT SECOND SESSION OF CONFERENCE ON WAR AND WILL VOTE NEITHER
FOR NOR AGAINST PRG OBSERVER STATUS ON BALLOT CIRCULATED ON
PARTICIPATION AT 77TH WMO CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. DCM HAS DISCUSSED ABOVE SUBJECTS WITH FAISAL AL-REFAE,
DIRECTOR UN AFFAIRS AT GOK FOREIGN MINISTRY. ALSO SOLICITED INFO
RE VISIT ON JANUARY 8 OF PRG EMISSARY DANG CHANG, ALLEGEDLY
TO SOLICIT KUWAITI SUPPORT FOR PRG MEMBERSHIP IN UN ORGANIZ-
ATIONS AND DESIRE PRG TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
KUWAIT.

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2. AL-REFAE CONFIRMED THAT PRG REP HAD MET WITH FORMIN OFFICIALS

AND ASKED FOR SUPPORT IN UN FORUMS. HE SAID NO ASSURANCES HAD BEEN GIVEN AND THAT PRG EMISSARY HAD BEEN TOLD THAT, FOLLOWING TRADITIONAL PRACTICE, GOK WOULD MAINTAIN NEUTRAL POSITION IN MATTERS RELATED TO INTERNAL DISPUTES IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. AL-REFAE SAID HE COULD NOT CONFIRM OR DENY PRESS REPORTS THAT PRG HAD SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT. IF SUCH A SUGGESTION HAD BEEN MADE, HE DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD BE SERIOUSLY ENTERTAINED BY GOK. HE NOTED WRYLY THAT KUWAIT ALREADY WAS HAVING ENOUGH TROUBLE DEALING WITH TWO VIETNAMS AND FORMIN COULD NOT POSSIBLY MANAGE A THIRD.

4. WITH RESPECT TO PRG ISSUE AT SECOND SESSION OF CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR (REFTEL A), AL-REFAE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT DCM'S OBSERVATION THAT GOK HAD VOTES AGAINST PRG PARTICIPATION (REFTEL C) NOTING GOK POLICY WAS AND WOULD REMAIN TO ABSTAIN ON SUCH ISSUES.

5. HE CONFIRMED GOK RECEIPT OF WMO SECRETARIAT BALLOT ON NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS (REFTEL B) AND SAID GOK PLANNED TO LEAVE SPACE BLANK OPPOSITE PRG.

6. COMMENT: GOK APPEARS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN TRADITION OF NOT BECOMING INVOLVED IN MATTERS IN OTHER PARTS OF WORLD NOT DIRECTLY AFFECTING KUWAIT. IT CONSIDERS ITSELF A FULL-FLEDGED NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY AND PROBABLY WILL NOT ASSUME A DEFINITIVE POLICY TOWARDS THE PRG UNLESS IT COMES UNDER PRESSURE FROM OTHER NAC COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY ARAB LEAGUE COUNTRIES, OR FROM ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE PLO WITH IMPORTANT DOMESTIC TIES.
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